

Prospects for U. S. Trade in Uruguay and Paraguay



A BUSINESS STREET OF ASUNCION, CAPITAL AND METROPOLIS OF PARAGUAY.

BY ROBERT F. WILSON.

WE used to link them together—Uruguay and Paraguay—in one breath in the geography class in the public schools, as though they were adjoining counties, with nationalities separated by some political turn of history beyond our knowledge. A visit to Uruguay and Paraguay is apt to upset more preconceived notions than a visit to any other countries of South America.

No two South American nations offer sharper contrasts than Uruguay and Paraguay. They are utterly unlike. Even in regard to their size the geography deceived our youthful minds, for Paraguay is an empire of 170,000 square miles—nearly the size of New England with New York and Pennsylvania thrown in—and Uruguay is larger than all the New England states combined. These two countries, from the similarity of their names commonly thought to be alike as two peas, are so dissimilar that the traveler is constantly astonished.

They are not very close together, a matter of a thousand miles separating their respective capitals, Montevideo of Uruguay and Asuncion of Paraguay. Paraguay is in the very heart of the

NO Other Two South American Countries Offer Such Sharp Contrasts. They Are Utterly Unlike—Uruguay Presents South American Civilization at About Its Highest Point; Paraguay at Its Most Primitive Commercial Conditions. British Influence Strong in Uruguay. Trade Opportunities—Differences in the Economic Conditions of the Two Countries Reflected by Appearance of People.

In April, this revolution was suppressed by President Schaerer, and the leaders of it were exiled, according to the usual procedure.

On the other hand Uruguay has done far more than attain stability in government. She has carried governmental reforms far beyond the other nations on this hemisphere. Several of her governmental proposals are more advanced than any that have ever been considered by the United States.

Such, for instance, is the proposition to substitute a commission form of government for the present executive, the president. It would not be surprising if this reform were carried out by Uruguay within the next year. The Uruguayan government is the best manifestation of the spirit of that nation, which is not content with good enough, but continually strives for the ideal.

From the point of view of American trade expansion, Uruguay and Paraguay present difficulties. Uruguay because she has attained a conservatism not observed in the other South American nations, and Paraguay because she has no foreign trade of great importance. Paraguay is a promise, and the Uruguayan government is the United States will have a greater share of her trade.

The situation is different in Uruguay, where there exists the largest per capita foreign trade in South America. The per capita trade figures show an accurate illustration generally upon the relative prosperity and development of the various republics. Uruguay leads with a foreign trade of \$104.17 per capita, of which 12 1/2 per cent is favorable balance, or an annual profit per capita of \$13 in her foreign transactions.

Uruguay has the best record, with foreign trade amounting to \$166.23 per capita. Then comes Chile, with \$66.23, held to this figure largely because Chile possesses the monopoly of one of the world's necessities, nitrate. Bolivia, with \$27.90 per capita annual foreign trade, follows in order, followed by Brazil, \$26.73; Venezuela, \$17.35; Peru, \$16.44; Ecuador, \$14.03; Paraguay, \$13.12; and Colombia, \$11.43.

Uruguay has grown conservative through years of peaceful business and social development. Of all the countries of South America she is the slowest to change or adopt innovations. One reason for this is that the British influence is very strong in Uruguay. There is a large group of young English-speaking people in Uruguay who are native to the country, the sons and daughters of English settlers, who preferred the better climate and more familiar hilly landscapes of Uruguay to the flat prairies of Argentina, which burn under an ardent sun in summer and are swept in winter by icy gales.

Montevideo, Uruguay, is just across the River Plate from Buenos Aires, Argentina, yet there is a great difference in climate and the advantage all to Montevideo. Considerable numbers of the wealthy foreign residents of Buenos Aires spend their summers in Montevideo to escape Buenos Aires' heat and take advantage of the magnificent ocean beaches along the Montevideo water front.

Climatic reasons thus probably account in part for the large British element in the Uruguayan population. Another reason is that the Uruguayan landscape is like unto the countryside in England. Next to the American, the Englishman is the most persistent disparager of foreign countries extant, but I never heard any Englishman express anything but enthusiasm for Uruguay and the lake country of southern Chile, which not only in scenery, but also in its cool, foggy climate, resembles England. And in both these regions there are large numbers of English settlers. British commerce, therefore, has a



MAIN BUSINESS STREET OF MONTEVIDEO.

chiefly agricultural, and her immediate future wealth will probably come from stock raising.

The country lies partly within and partly without the torrid zone, with a league after league of rich, green grasses that contrast sharply in color with the brown and drier forage of the Argentine prairies. This country will probably be the future range for the production of lean cattle which will be shipped to the cooler south for fattening and slaughter. Indeed, one of the chief items in Paraguay's exports today is live cattle, which are shipped to Argentina and Uruguay for fattening.

In other agricultural lines Paraguay has great possibilities of development. Within a few hundred miles—across the Brazilian border—and in the same latitude and similar climate, the navel orange is indigenous. In the Brazilian groves, almost without human attention, grow navel oranges as fine as any that scientific propagation has been able to develop in California. The orange tree is native to Paraguay, and grows there in great profusion. Even the wild oranges are of extraordinary size.

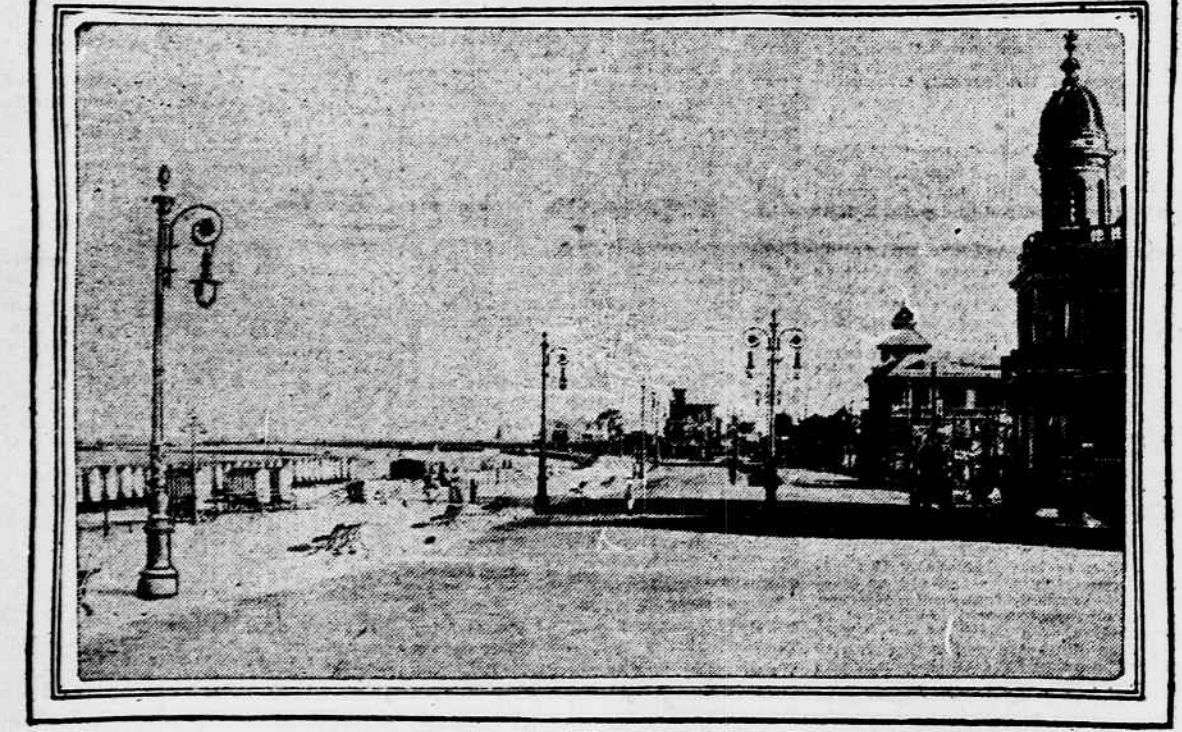
It would seem entirely practicable to develop in Paraguay a navel orange industry that would eventually produce a lucrative foreign trade. Paraguayan oranges and bananas now find much favor in Argentina. Tobacco, too, seems to be a promising crop. The Paraguayan soil is evidently suited for tobacco, and large quantities are produced, though there is apparently little effort made to improve the weed.

It seemed to me, too, that Paraguay might develop another industry—lace-making—to a high point. The Indian women of Paraguay make a delicate lace that sends American women into raptures when they see it. At no attempt is made to organize this work, and the product is hardly known outside of Paraguay. The women do this weaving laboriously, using pins and a cushion as a loom, and receive pitifully small sums for their work.

A bit of lace that is made by a skilled weaver in one month of toil brings an average of \$250 gold in Asuncion. There seem to be possibilities in the organization of this industry and exportation of its products to the competitive markets. Of the merit of the product there is no doubt.

In the published trade figures of Paraguay the United States apparently takes none of the exports of the country, but this is only apparently true. As a matter of fact, the United States is one of the largest consumers of one of Paraguay's chief exports—quebracho wood and extract. Quebracho is a small hardwood tree growing in the northwestern Paraguayan wilderness, which is called the Gran Chaco. Its wood is extremely hard, "quebracho" in Spanish meaning "break as." The wood yields an essence which is an important material used in tanning.

Quebracho wood and extract to the value of about \$1,000,000 gold were exported from Paraguay in 1913, much of it going to brokers in the Argentine. From these middlemen the tanners of



MONTEVIDEO USES MILES OF HER WATER FRONT AS A BATHING BEACH AND PUBLIC PARK.

the United States buy their quebracho, so that this country does receive an important quantity of Paraguayan exports, although we are given a blank space in the table of Paraguayan exports. The United States is the heaviest buyer of quebracho in Argentina.

When Paraguay's interior prosperity expands American traders are certain to benefit, for the feeling toward the United States is very friendly. One of the chief towns above Asuncion, on the Paraguay river, is called Villa Hayes, in honor of President Hayes, who settled a boundary dispute in favor of Paraguay. American products now constitute a considerable part of the Paraguayan importation, although we fall behind Great Britain, Germany, Argentina, France and Italy.

Paraguay is hoping not to be forgotten in the American trade crusade. As an evidence of her attitude, the nation has recently granted to an American firm the concession for constructing the new river port works at Asuncion. Steamers of deep draft can reach Asuncion, although it is 1,000 miles above Buenos Aires, so that nearly all of her external commerce is water-borne.

Asuncion's port works will be on a relatively elaborate scale. When the American engineers start their work they may be expected to buy their materials chiefly in the United States.

This increased importation is likely to make the United States one of the four chief nations in Paraguay's foreign trade.



THE RIVER PORT OF ASUNCION.

Specialist Describes the Newest Methods of Teaching Home Economics

THE remarkable changes that have taken place in the methods of teaching home economics or "housewifery" in schools, universities and other educational institutions throughout the country are described in interesting fashion by Mrs. Henriette W. Calvin, specialist in home economics, United States bureau of education.

Mrs. Calvin was appointed home economics specialist by Dr. P. P. Claxton March 15 last, with Miss Carrie Lyford as coworker. At the time of her appointment Mrs. Calvin was dean of home economics at the Oregon Agricultural College, and, prior to that, professor of home economics at Purdue University. She has been engaged in this particular line of work for fourteen years, and is an authority on any subject pertaining to the home and its correct management.

In speaking of her recent trip to the Pacific coast, where she visited a number of schools to observe their methods of teaching this important branch of education, she said:

"While going through these institutions in which the study of home economics figures so prominently in the school curriculum I was forcibly reminded of the days when I was obliged to go out and argue in favor of its introduction in the schools. Today there are 215 colleges and universities

that give courses in home economics, 160 normal schools and more than 3,000 cities and villages that offer home economics for their public schools.

"Almost every university permits one credit of home economics as one of the entrance requirements. Many changes have taken place in the method of teaching this course. First of all, there has been a change in names. 'Domestic art' is not so often used now, for in its place has come the more definite terms 'handwork,' 'clothing,' 'textiles,' 'dressmaking' and 'millinery.' 'Domestic science' itself is replaced by 'food

live, which the children put in order, or, where this is lacking, they practice on the principal's office or other rooms in the regular school building. This means real, practical training. Portland and Tacoma both have similar arrangements.

"In the Lux School, in San Francisco, the home is the keystone of all instruction given, as well as in the plan of the building, which is a splendid structure of unusual design. It has courses in housekeeping, food preparation, sewing and laundrying. The normal students operate a cafeteria. In the cafeteria six students prepare the noon meal for 200. The social idea is in-



DOMESTIC SCIENCE STUDENTS MARKETING IN PORTLAND.

production,' 'invalid cookery,' etc. I believe that this very change in names shows that the subject is becoming more definite.

And, because it was apropos of the point she was trying to make—that home economics, the administration of household affairs, is recognized as a most important factor in a girl's education today—Mrs. Calvin brought forth a recent report of a prominent educator's submitted to the bureau of education, in which it states:

"In America the home is the most important of all institutions. From it are the issues of life. In the world of the home children are born and reared. In it they grow to manhood and womanhood. From it they go forth into the larger world of society and state to establish in turn their little world of the home. In the home must be established their physical, mental and moral health.

"The experiences of home constitute the raw material of the education in the schools. From the home, parents and older children go forth to their daily life and to the home they bring the products of their labor, to be expended wisely and prudently, or unwisely and imprudently, for food, clothing, shelter and the other necessities and luxuries of life.

"For most people the home is the beginning and end of life. Therefore, of all arts, those pertaining to homemaking are the most important; and of all the sciences, those which find their ap-



CAFETERIA IN A PORTLAND, ORE., SCHOOL, WHERE FOOD IS COOKED AND SERVED BY THE PUPILS.